CLAIMS

1. A vehicle radio system, comprising:

a radio receiver that is configured to receive a radio signal from a broadcast station;

a microphone that is configured to receive an audible from an
5 operator of the vehicle radio system and generate an audible signal from said audible; and

a tuning module configured to receive said radio signal from said radio receiver and said audible signal from said microphone; said tuning module comprising:

10 a storage module configured to store a first phoneme string and a first channel number associated with said first phoneme string;

a voice recognition engine configured to compare a phoneme in said audible signal with said first phoneme string
15 stored in said storage module; and

a tuner configured to tune said radio receiver to said first channel number when said voice recognition engine identifies said phoneme as said first phoneme string.

2. The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said storage module is configured to store a second phoneme string and a second channel number associated with said second phoneme string;

5 said voice recognition engine is configured to compare said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string stored in said storage module; and

said tuner is configured to tune said radio receiver to said second channel number when said voice recognition engine identifies said phoneme
10 as said second phoneme string.

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3. The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 2, wherein:

said storage module is configured to store a third phoneme string and a third channel number associated with said third phoneme string;

said voice recognition engine is configured to compare said

5   phoneme in said audible signal with said third phoneme string stored in said storage module; and

said tuner is configured to tune said radio receiver to said third channel number when said voice recognition engine identifies said phoneme as said third phoneme string.

4. The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said storage module is configured to store a second phoneme string and a first programming format associated with said second phoneme string;

5   said voice recognition engine is configured to compare said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string stored in said storage module; and

said tuner is configured to tune said radio receiver to a second channel number associated with said first programming format when said

10   voice recognition engine identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

5. The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said first programming format is a sports programming format.

6. The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said radio signal transmitted by said broadcast service is a digital radio signal.

7. The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said broadcast service is a satellite broadcast service.

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8. The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said storage module is configured to store a second phoneme string and a first functional command associated with said second phoneme string; and

5   said voice recognition engine is configured to compare said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string stored in said storage module and request said first functional command when said voice recognition engine identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

9. The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 8, wherein said functional command is a volume command.

10. The vehicle radio system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first phoneme string is a phonetic spelling of said first channel number.

11. A method of operating a vehicle radio system, comprising the steps of:

receiving a radio signal from a broadcast station;

receiving an audible from an operator of the vehicle radio system;

5   generating an audible signal from said audible;

storing a first phoneme string and a first channel number associated with said first phoneme string;

comparing a phoneme in said audible signal with said first phoneme string; and

10   tuning to said first channel number when said comparing said phoneme in said audible with said first phoneme string identifies said phoneme as said first phoneme string.

12. The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

said storage module is configured to store a second phoneme string and a second channel number associated with said second phoneme string;

comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string; and

tuning said radio receiver to said second channel number when said comparing said phoneme in said audible with said second phoneme string identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

13. The method as set forth in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

said storage module is configured to store a third phoneme string and a third channel number associated with said third phoneme string;

comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said third phoneme string; and

tuning said radio receiver to said third channel number when said comparing said phoneme in said audible with said third phoneme string identifies said phoneme as said third phoneme string.

14. The method system as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

storing a second phoneme string and a first programming format associated with said second phoneme string;

comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string; and

tuning said radio receiver to a second channel number associated with said first programming format when said comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

15. The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein said first programming format is a sports programming format.

16. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said radio signal is a digital radio signal.

17. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said broadcast service is a satellite broadcast service.

18. The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

storing a second phoneme string and a first functional command associated with said second phoneme string; and

5   comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string; and

requesting said first functional command when said comparing said phoneme in said audible signal with said second phoneme string identifies said phoneme as said second phoneme string.

19. The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said functional command is a volume command.

20. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said first phoneme string is a phonetic spelling of said first channel number.